

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

## NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 United States Patent and Trademark  
 Office  
 Box PCT  
 Washington, D.C.20231  
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

<b>Date of mailing (day/month/year)</b> 30 August 2000 (30.08.00)	
<b>International application No.</b> PCT/EP99/10288	<b>Applicant's or agent's file reference</b> F7483(V)
<b>International filing date (day/month/year)</b> 20 December 1999 (20.12.99)	<b>Priority date (day/month/year)</b> 26 January 1999 (26.01.99)
<b>Applicant</b> BLONK, Johannes, Cornelis, Gerardus et al	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

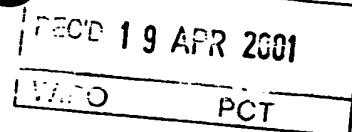
☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:  
 10 July 2000 (10.07.00)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2. The election ☒ was  
☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer Juan Cruz Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT



(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>F7483(V)</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. <b>PCT/EP99/10288</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>20/12/1999</b>	Priority date (day/month/year) <b>26/01/1999</b>
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC <b>A23L1/182</b>		
Applicant <b>UNILEVER N.V. et al</b>		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.  
  
☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).  
  
 These annexes consist of a total of 6 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand  <b>10/07/2000</b>	Date of completion of this report  <b>17.04.2001</b>
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:   <b>European Patent Office</b> <b>D-80298 Munich</b> <b>Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d</b> <b>Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465</b>	Authorized officer  <b>Georgopoulos, N</b>  Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2634  

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/EP99/10288

**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

**Description, pages:**

1-11,13-18 as originally filed

12,12a as received on 09/12/2000 with letter of 05/12/2000

**Claims, No.:**

1-22 as received on 09/12/2000 with letter of 05/12/2000

**Drawings, sheets:**

1/1 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/EP99/10288

- ☐ the description,      pages:  
☐ the claims,      Nos.:  
☐ the drawings,      sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-22
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-22
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-22
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations  
**see separate sheet**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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International application No. PCT/EP99/10288

**Item V**

- 1 The amendments filed with Applicant's letter of 05.12.00 meet the requirements of Art.34 (2) (b) PCT.
- 2 Reference is made to the following documents:  
D1: EP-A-0 059 565  
D2: EP-A-0 743 497
- 3 The subject-matter of present independent claims 1, 4, 5, 13 and 22 is new (Art.33 (2) PCT).
  - 3.1 A quick cooking rice exhibiting the properties as indicated in present claims 1, 4 and 22, is not disclosed in either D1 or D2 (see page 13 to 14, examples 1 to 4 of D1 and columns 28 to 31, examples 1 to 4 of D2).  
Moreover, D1 teaches only a bulk density of the rice kernels as in present claim 5 (see page 5, lines 12 to 16 of D1) and D2 does not mention any of the rice kernel properties of present claim 5.  
Finally, neither D1 nor D2 discloses a process for making quick cooking rice or quick cooking rice kernels, wherein milled or polished rice kernels are in an **annular, fluidised bed with a limited height** as in present claim 13 (see page 6, line 20 to page 7, line 14 of D1 and claims 1 to 4 of D2).
  - 3.2 Thus, the subject-matter of claims 1, 4, 5, 13 and 22 is not anticipated by the technical teaching of any one of the documents D1 and D2.
- 4 The subject-matter of present independent claims 1, 4 and 5 involves an inventive step (Art.33 (3) PCT), for the following reasons:
  - 4.1 The problem underlying the present invention is regarded to lie in the provision of quick cooking rice and rice kernels which exhibit the following technical advantages:
    - i/ good cohesion;
    - ii/ very good bite;
    - iii/ good springiness;
    - iv/ no grittiness;

v/ no off-taste properties; and

vi/ even texture (see page 1, paragraph 2 to page 2, paragraph 5, page 4, paragraph 3, page 13, table 2 and examples 1 to 5, pages 13 to 18 of the present description).

D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, deals with a different technical problem, namely the provision of a very uniform heat-treated cereal (e.g. rice) under homogeneous, simple and energy-saving heating conditions (see page 3, lines 10 to 16, page 4, lines 3 to 4 and page 7, line 25 to page 9, line 4 of D1).

Moreover, there are no indications in the technical teaching of D2 that would prompt the person skilled in the art to start from the rice of D1, modify it and arrive at the claimed rice product, as D2 deals with the provision of uniform rice by a process that can ensure avoidance of gluing conditions, reduction in the amount of water used and high clarity of water at the end of the cooking process (see column 4, lines 28 to 49 of D2).

Consequently, the subject-matter of present independent claims 1, 4 and 5 would not be obvious to the person skilled in the art in respect of D1 and D2.

- 5 Following from acknowledging novelty and inventive step of the present claims 1, 4 and 5, present claims 13 to 21 are also allowable.
- 6 Meals containing the new and inventive products of present claims 1, 4 and 5 (as claimed in present claim 22) are allowable too.
- 7 The subject-matter of claims 1 to 22 is susceptible of industrial application in the field of food industry (Art.33 (4) PCT).

# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>F7483(V)</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, Item 5 below.	
International application No. <b>PCT/EP 99/ 10288</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>20/12/1999</b>	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) <b>26/01/1999</b>
Applicant <b>UNILEVER N.V. et al</b>		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.  
☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

**1. Basis of the report**

a. With regard to the language, the International search was carried out on the basis of the International application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the International search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the International application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the International application, the International search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the International application in written form.

☐ filed together with the International application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the International application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).

**4. With regard to the title,**

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

**5. With regard to the abstract,**

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this International search report, submit comments to this Authority.

**6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.**

☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

☐ None of the figures.

**FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY**

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

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DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						



# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

P 99/10288

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 7 A23L1/182 A23L1/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 A23L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 613 428 A (KENDALL JOHN H. ;ET AL) 25 March 1997 (1997-03-25) ---	1
A	EP 0 743 497 A (RIVIANA FOODS, INC) 20 November 1996 (1996-11-20) ---	1
A	EP 0 059 565 A (GEORFFREY GREETHEHEAD PTY. LIMITED) 8 September 1982 (1982-09-08) & US 4 478 862 A cited in the application --- -/--	1

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

9 May 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

18/05/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
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Authorized officer

Caturla Vicente, V

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

P 99/10288

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>           DATABASE WPI            Section PQ, Week 9745            Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB;            Class P28, AN 97-484223            XP002096510            &amp; JP 09 224826 A (PALOMA KOGYO KK),            2 September 1997 (1997-09-02)            abstract         </p>	1

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

EP 99/10288

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5613428	A	25-03-1997	AU 6067498 A	04-06-1998
			AU 701364 B	28-01-1999
			AU 7716894 A	22-03-1995
			BR 9407407 A	12-11-1996
			CA 2170903 A	09-03-1995
			EP 0720432 A	10-07-1996
			EP 0722669 A	24-07-1996
			EP 0730837 A	11-09-1996
			EP 0743497 A	20-11-1996
			JP 9502093 T	04-03-1997
			WO 9506416 A	09-03-1995
EP 743497	A	20-11-1996	EP 0722669 A	24-07-1996
			EP 0730837 A	11-09-1996
			AU 6067498 A	04-06-1998
			AU 701364 B	28-01-1999
			AU 7716894 A	22-03-1995
			BR 9407407 A	12-11-1996
			CA 2170903 A	09-03-1995
			CN 1137737 A	11-12-1996
			EP 0720432 A	10-07-1996
			JP 9502093 T	04-03-1997
			WO 9506416 A	09-03-1995
			US 5997930 A	07-12-1999
			ZA 9406711 A	20-04-1995
			US 5852882 A	29-12-1998
			US 5613428 A	25-03-1997
			US 5744184 A	28-04-1998
EP 59565	A	08-09-1982	AT 8959 T	15-09-1984
			AU 532158 B	22-09-1983
			AU 8014182 A	09-09-1982
			BR 8200779 A	21-12-1982
			CA 1195170 A	15-10-1985
			DE 3260559 D	20-09-1984
			JP 1392163 C	23-07-1987
			JP 57159463 A	01-10-1982
			JP 61053021 B	15-11-1986
			MX 155581 A	29-03-1988
			US 4478862 A	23-10-1984
JP 9224826	A	02-09-1997	NONE	

XP-002096510

1/1 - (C) WPI / DERWENT

AN - 97-484223 ç45!

AP - JP960061783 960222

PR - JP960061783 960222

TI - Rice cooker with heat retaining function using gas combustion - has ring-shaped heating plate which covers combustion flame from burner such that it does not heat boiler directly

IW - RICE COOKER HEAT RETAIN FUNCTION GAS COMBUST RING SHAPE HEAT PLATE COVER COMBUST FLAME BURNER HEAT BOILER

PA - (PALO-N) PALOMA KOGYO KK

PN - JP9224826 A 970902 DW9745 A47J27/00 007pp

ORD - 1997-09-02

IC - A47J27/00

FS - GMPI;EPI

DC - P28 X27

AB - J09224826 The cooker includes a boiler (11) which is positioned above a burner (12) which has multiple flame holes (21) in the side upper part of a toroidal mixture chamber (12a). After cooking, the operation is shifted to thermal insulation board in which the thermal power of the burner is reduced, thus keeping the boiler at uniform low warm temperature.

- A ring-shaped heating plate (31) is positioned in-between the burner and the boiler. The combustion flame is covered with the ring-shaped heating plate such that it does not directly heat the boiler.

- ADVANTAGE - Simplifies structure. Secures uniform temperature distribution with high thermal efficiency.

- (Dwg.1/8)

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